

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

# FARM ADVISER

News Notes from the Field of the Extension Service, Released for Publication Every Two Weeks  
From the Office of the Director of Extension.

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No. 12

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## NOTICE

The purpose of the Farm Adviser is to furnish a convenient and timely medium for supplying news notes regarding the work of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and Extension Service, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the local press and to county demonstration agents with a view to keeping them and the people throughout the State informed of the activities of these agricultural agencies in their behalf. All requests for copies of this sheet should be directed to Reuben Brigham, In Charge of Publications, The Extension Service, College Park, Maryland.

## MARYLAND WEEK EXHIBITION PLAN FOR 1916 CONTEST

College Park, Md., March 31.

A meeting of the representatives of all Farmers' Club and Granges who have competed at the Maryland Week Exposition, has been called for Friday, April 7th, at 2 p. m., Rennert Hotel, Baltimore, Md.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the revise rules for the 1916 Club Exhibit Contest. Representatives of all Subordinate Granges and local Farmers' Clubs in the State who are interested in this contest are invited to attend.

Reports received from the representatives of clubs which exhibited last year, indicate that most of the clubs entered in 1915 will enter the competition again. Many of these organizations are already hard at

work planning for improvements over their booths of previous years. They are anxious to prove that they have profited by their experience in previous competitions and will have displays of even more excellence and attractiveness than previously.

These clubs are dividing the work of preparing for the exhibition among all the members, giving each one something special to grow and prepare for the competition. Committees have been appointed to select the best quality of seed, to provide for exhibits of crops of every sort suited to their locality, and to co-operate in having as large a percentage as possible of their membership take part in the final exhibit. Keen competition is anticipated by the clubs that will enter the contest and every effort will be made by them to put up a lively fight for first honors.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FARM MANAGEMENT IN APRIL

College Park, Md., April 1.

Many timely suggestions for farm management during the coming month are published in the special Maryland Agricultural College bulletin, Elementary Vocational Agriculture for Maryland schools. These suggestions are intended mainly for use in connection with school and Boys' Agricultural Club work, but contain many helpful suggestions to farm owners, which are in part as follows:

**SOILS**—The preparation of seed beds should be rushed. For all the staple crops the soil should be thoroughly disked and rolled. Crops grown for green manuring should be turned under and the soil thoroughly harrowed.

**CROPS**—Secure good seed of all kinds of crops. Improved seed are

as valuable as improved animals and are cheap at any price. Make plans to improve your own seed. Seed selection plants are recommended.

Plan the crops for silage, hog pastures, poultry pastures and for green feeds in general. Sow oats in Northern and Western Maryland, and in other parts of the State if the crop has not been sown previously.

**FRUITS**—Continue spraying. Begin the cultivation of the orchard. Plant grapes and strawberries. Every home should be well provided with small fruits of all kinds.

**GARDENING**—All kinds of garden operations should be pushed. Every home garden should be provided with a cold frame. By its use, early vegetables are insured. The more delicate plants should be started or hardened off in the cold frame before setting in the open. In this way plants may be given a much earlier start than if planting in the open is depended upon.

**Farm Animals**—Open the pastures to the live stock, but do not cut off the concentrated food. Look after the work animals. See that they are well feed and that their harness fits them well. Guard against injured shoulders and hocks.

All young animals such as colts, calves, pigs and chickens should receive careful attention. Feed them well and keep down all kinds of vermin.

The cows that were fresh milkers in the fall should not be permitted to drop off in their milk. If properly fed until the pastures are good, they may be continued in full milk flow throughout the summer.

**IMPROVEMENT, PLANS AND REPAIRS**—Houses should be screened. Remember that flies are the carriers of typhoid fever germs.



# MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FARM ADVISER

These tables form the basis of the Extension Service, Maryland Agricultural College, and are published by the College of Agriculture.

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PRINCIPLES OF FARMING. The farmer must know the principles of farming, and must apply them to his own farm. This is the second principle of farming.

CAUTION. The farmer must be cautious in his dealings with others. He must not be deceived by false promises, and he must not be misled by false information.

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Every precaution should be taken to prevent their coming in contact with articles of food. A rigid campaign conducted at this time against flies goes a long way toward keeping down the number.

As spring approaches, clean up the premises and apply lime freely.

#### SOUND SEED POTATOES NECESSARY IN PRODUCING PROFITABLE CROPS

College Park, Md., April 3.

The proper selection of seed potatoes is being urged by the Extension Service of the Maryland Agricultural College. Demonstrations in seed selection and spraying are being arranged for in many potato growing sections of the State. Prof. C. E. Temple, who is a specialist in plant diseases, is personally supervising these demonstrations, a considerable number of which were conducted last year with marked success in the quantity and quality of the crops and in its freedom from disease. Prof. Temple makes the following statement regarding the importance of securing unmixed seed:

"Good seed potatoes should be true to name, of medium size, free from disease, and capable of producing sprouts that will grow vigorously. The planting of mixed varieties on the Eastern Shore has resulted in more or less loss to the growers. In at least one case the writer found recently as much as 25 per cent of Green Mountain in a field of Irish Cobbler, and only rarely did he find a field of unmixed Cobblers, even though he travelled more than two hundred miles through the potato region. It should be noted in this connection that Green Mountain plants in a field of early Cobblers are no more than so many weeds. It should be noted also that of the many fields observed, those planted with northern seed showed the most mixture and the most disease. From these observations, it would seem that some effort should be made to obtain or produce seed potatoes free from mixture. It is understood that

certain growers in Maine are making considerable progress in the production of unmixed seed by roguing their fields and by practicing the seed plat and hill selection methods. Seed produced in this way is very desirable, and it should be obtained by our growers. The climatic conditions of Western Maryland are similar to those of Maine, and, the seed has been handled and the fields are going to be cared for in the most approved manner for the production of A 1 seed.

#### FERTILIZING THE HOME GARDEN IS ADVISED

College Park, Md., April 1.

Frequent inquiries are received at the Agricultural College regarding the fertilizing of the home garden at this time of the year. It cannot be too strongly urged that the garden soil be well fertilized if an abundant supply of vegetables needed for every farm table is to be provided. In answering such inquiries, Prof. E. F. Stoddard of the Agricultural College makes the following suggestions:

If manure is applied liberally to the garden every year, considerable plant food will be added and for this reason very little commercial fertilizers will be needed. However, since manure is not a well balanced fertilizer, it will be advisable to use some acid phosphate. To a well manured garden commercial fertilizers should be applied as a top dressing along the rows in furrows and covered with soil, the first application being made at the rate of 500 pounds to the acre about four weeks after the plants are set and just before the heads begin to form, apply nitrate of soda at the rate of 150 pounds to the acre. Since potash cannot be secured reasonably this year, a fertilizer containing about 3 to 4 per cent and 8 per cent Phosphoric acid may be used as a general garden fertilizer. Of course, all leafy crops like cabbage may receive additional Nitrogen, especially in the form of Nitrate of Soda for the early crop, because it is quickly available.

#### ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SELECTION OF SEED CORN

College Park, Md., April 1.

Instructions regarding the selection of seed corn as prepared by Prof. Nickolas Schmitz are being furnished by County Agents to the members of the State Boys Corn Club, who are now preparing for the competition of 1916. As a result of the interest aroused last year, there will be keen competition among the boys who have enrolled in practically every county in the State. The proper selection of seed will play an important part in their success, the directions issued being as follows:

In securing seed corn from which to grow a profitable crop, it is a mistake to go far from home for it, particularly if a heavy yield the first year is desired. Seed brought in from a long distance and grown under different conditions from those in your neighborhood, will not, as a rule, yield as well the first year as good seed of a good variety grown near by.

Usually, the larger-growing and later-maturing varieties of corn will yield more than the earlier and smaller growing sorts. Be careful, however, that the variety you select is not too late in maturing and that the cob is not too large and has not high a percentage of moisture because a late-maturing, large cob variety may mean a lot of rotten corn for you, and hence, a much lower yield.

In sections where the season is long enough, such varieties as Boone County White, Collier, Excelsior, Giant Beauty, Yellow Dent, Johnson County, if grown near by, the long yellow variety grown in Frederick county and the white cap corn grown in Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, and other nearby counties, are as good as any for large yields. These varieties require from 125 to 135 days to mature.



